

March 2002

Project Purpose and Need:

The Los Gatos Creek bridge structure is nearly 80 years old and has recently been subjected to increased storm water flows due to land development on the west side of State Route 33. The main channel of Los Gatos Creek was north of this location and it has been minimized. The original structure was built to carry overflow storm water. The existing structure has experienced high water crests where water entered on the bridge deck or touched the soffit three or four times during the last twenty-four years. To avoid possible failure, a new bridge is being constructed to replace the old bridge.

Project Schedule:	Begin Construction:	February	2002
	Complete Construction:	November	2003

Project Description:

The new structure has two through lanes, auxiliary lanes, and pedestrian sidewalks. The new bridge profile is approximately one meter higher than the existing profile and therefore new approaches need to be constructed. In addition, a traffic control signal and safety lighting are to be installed at the intersection of State Route 33 and Phelps Avenue. This project will relocate the Wooden Walking Beam to a park-like setting.

Community Interest:

Relocation of Historical Monument - "THE WOODEN WALKING BEAM"

In early 1999, Caltrans personnel met with Rene Ramirez, the Director of Public Works for the City of Coalinga to determine the disposition of the wooden walking beam located at the north end of the Los Gatos Creek Bridge. The area is an environmentally sensitive area (ESA) because it contains a historical oil pumping apparatus from a by-gone era. The site and the walking beam are impacted by the project and a Right of Way Acquisition is required from the site. The toe of fill slope for the north bridge approach extends into the ESA and the City of Coalinga elected to relocate the walking beam away from the new toe of slope.

The State Historic Preservation Officer indicated that relocation of the walking beam should be eligible for funding from this project. With that preliminary recommendation, the City of Coalinga and Caltrans proceeded to make the studies and obtain the necessary reviews to resolve the landscaping revisions and the relocation of the walking beam. The City of Coalinga has further plans for community facilities in the immediate area once this project is completed.

Construction Cost: \$4 Million

Funding Sources:

Project Map on Reverse

